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**From:** Jordan, Deborah [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B3DBF2D18EC74D249D23EF5B7791E02B-DJORDAN]  
**Sent:** 2/1/2021 3:06:54 PM  
**To:** Knapp, Kristien [Knapp.Kristien@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: Nichols joins think tanks devoted to transportation, China climate policy

Thanks for sending.

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Deputy Regional Administrator  
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On Feb 1, 2021, at 5:25 AM, Knapp, Kristien <Knapp.Kristien@epa.gov> wrote:

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**From:** POLITICO Pro Energy <alert@email.politicopro.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 1, 2021 8:01 AM  
**To:** Knapp, Kristien <Knapp.Kristien@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Nichols joins think tanks devoted to transportation, China climate policy

**Nichols joins think tanks devoted to transportation, China climate policy**

By Debra Kahn

02/01/2021 08:00 AM EST

Former California Air Resources Board Chair Mary Nichols is taking leadership roles at a new transportation policy advisory group and a UC Berkeley think tank devoted to China's climate change policies.

After the November election, Nichols was a contender to become President Joe Biden's Environmental Protection Agency administrator before Biden ultimately tapped North Carolina regulator Michael Regan.

Nichols stepped down as CARB chair last month after 13 years leading the country's most aggressive climate and air pollution agency. She will join former Gov. Jerry Brown at the California-China Climate Institute that he founded in 2019, working with the governor who initially appointed her to CARB in 1975 and later became her cap-and-trade partner during Brown's second stint as the state's executive.

She'll also serve as co-chair of the Commission On The Future Of Mobility, formed in October by the think tank Securing America's Future Energy, which is aimed at shaping global policies around electric, autonomous and other new types of vehicles.

Nichols said she was excited by "the opportunity to think farther into the future and think bigger than we're usually able to do, even at an agency like CARB."

"I was anxious to find a way to kind of continue the work I've done at CARB, but without the responsibility of heading up a big agency or the constraints of the political environment when you're a member of an administration, which are always there," she said of the transportation commission, which also includes executives from Ford, Hyundai, FedEx and Qualcomm as members.

Nichols will serve as vice chair of the Berkeley institute, which organizes joint U.S.-China policy trainings, research and talks and is affiliated with Beijing's Tsinghua University and Xie Zhenhua, China's special representative for climate change affairs.

Brown, who focused heavily on international climate diplomacy as governor, said he still sees a role for California to advance climate policies with China even though Biden is making climate change a priority where former President Donald Trump didn't. Special Presidential Climate Envoy John Kerry said last week that he wouldn't compromise on other international flashpoints like intellectual property or territorial disputes in order to reach agreement on climate issues with China.

"We're keeping the door open with the Chinese," Brown said in an interview. "We're perhaps a bit more agile; we don't have the same constraints as the national government might face, so we can push on the envelope more aggressively and, I hope, more imaginatively."

Nichols agreed.

"I'm hoping the institute will continue to be a place where serious conversations can take place in an environment that's not as formal or as risky in some ways," she said. "It's not an official negotiating venue, but it is a place where interested people can come together and work on these challenges."

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